Back in business

The newly-designed ground floor shopping mall (pictured right) at the south end of the Refectory opened earlier this month. The Post Office, grocery store, newsagent, toilets (with facilities for people with disabilities) and porters’ lodge are now up and running. The official opening is planned for the beginning of next term by which time the finishing touches should be completed and the baguette shop opened for business.

Everyone is reminded that the Travel Agent, Carlson Wagon Lit, is operating from offices on Level 1 above the new mall. The lift is currently out of operation for up-grading.

University Christmas Card

The 1996 University Christmas card is now available. The A5 size card, which depicts Fulton Court, is priced at £3.75 for ten or 40p per single card. Individual cards can also be purchased through the Bookshop and the Students’ Union Shop. Bulk orders should be placed through Christine Anthony in the Information Office on ext 3766 or email: Bulletin@sussex.ac.uk with your order and a recharge code. Order early to avoid disappointment.
In brief

Library Periodicals Review

Papers for the Library Periodicals Review have now been circulated and some questions have arisen over the method of voting. Votes should be recorded by numbers, not by ticks. All participants have 100 votes each and can allocate any number of votes between 1 and 100 to any number of titles in which they are interested, provided that the total number of votes allocated does not exceed 100.

If any one has already sent in their lists marked with ticks, they can either ask the Library Periodicals Administration (ext. 3409) for a fresh set of lists or the Library will count the ticks as an equal number of votes spread over the titles they have ticking. If there are any other queries, please contact Robert Howes, Sub Librarian, on ext. 8589 or Shirley Kirby-Turner, Head of Periodicals on ext. 3409.

Sally Marriott

Family, friends and colleagues gathered in the Meeting House last Thursday in memory of Sally Marriott, Deputy Personnel Officer. During a moving memorial service, friends described Sally’s many qualities, notably her strong sense of fun and of adventure, and paid tribute to the great courage she displayed in the face of her illness.

Also remembered was the importance Sally attached to the University as a community which values and supports its members and of her unstinting efforts to uphold the importance of that sense of community, both during her years in what was then the Community Services Area and afterwards. Sally first came to Sussex in 1966 as an assistant librarian in IDS, moving a year later into the University Bursar’s office. She died of cancer on Sunday 3 November 1996.

New Research into Privacy

A citizen’s right to privacy may not depend upon the introduction of a statutory privacy law, according to Gavin Phillipson (CLS). His research, undertaken with Helen Fenwick of the University of Durham, shows that a form of privacy law already exists within the British legal system – under the guise of breach of confidence.

Although breach of confidence traditionally covered relationships such as doctor-patient or an employer-employee, their research has found that the law has undergone re-definition to the point that it can now be used to deal with cases of invasion of privacy. Through the examination of a number of unpublicised cases and comments made in the Spycatcher case, Phillipson and Fenwick have discovered an increasing flexibility in judges’ interpretations of a breach of confidence. This has extended to cases where there has been no pre-existing relationship between the two parties and where the case has effectively been one of invasion of privacy.

For example, in one case Justice Drake granted interim injunctions to prevent the Daily Mirror and other papers from publishing photographs of the Princess of Wales exercising in a gymnasium. The photographs were taken by the gym owner without the Princess’ knowledge or consent, and the plaintiff’s case was based both on breach of contract and on confidence. Injunctions have been granted in other cases involving surreptitious photography. Yet cases like these, where privacy is successfully protected using breach of confidence, seem to go unnoticed by barristers.

“Public lawyers are taught to believe that there isn’t a law of privacy in Britain,” explained Phillipson. “It’s almost as if they have been hypnotised into not looking for one.”

The researchers have also noticed a progressive change in what counts as “confidential information”. Traditionally breach of confidence involved information such as the contents of memos and documents, but now they believe photographs and surreptitiously recorded conversations can be included within its definition. The researchers conclude that all that is required for the operation of a de facto privacy law is for barristers to start arguing that their client’s information should be protected through the use of breach of confidence, and for judges to make judgements accordingly. “If it was successfully argued a few times in the Court of Appeal or the House of Lords it would become consolidated,” said Phillipson. “All this requires is a change of strategy. If this doesn’t work nothing else will. The government is not going to introduce legislation on the matter.”

Good Result for History of Art

History of Art, the latest subject to be assessed under the current scheme of quality assessment, has been accorded a score of 20 out of a maximum score of 24. It received a score of 4, the highest award, in the core aspects of teaching, learning and assessment and student progression and achievement. The assessors reported that they had been immensely impressed by the high quality of the seminars and described 83% of the sessions observed as excellent.
Building bridges
The School of Engineering has received £50,000 funding from the Royal Academy of Engineering, for the appointment of three Visiting Professors in the Principles of Engineering Design. The funding is for a five-year period from the academic year 1996/97. The scheme is designed to help strengthen the bridges between the teaching of principles of engineering design in universities and best practice in industry.

Dean of ENGG, Eddie Pownier and former Dean Brian Roberts are pictured with the Visiting Professors (Rod Edwards, Len Trevillion, Roy Simons) and David Foxley of the Royal Academy of Engineering when the first cheque for £10,000 was presented to the School. (l to r: Brian Roberts, Roy Simons, David Foxley, Ed Pownier, Rod Edwards and Len Trevillion)

What the papers say
The findings of a study by Jennifer Platt (GRCiSS) into the experiences of Hungarian refugees were reported in the Higher (1 November). The study focuses on the experiences of 297 refugees, many of them intellectuals, of whom 81 fled to Britain after the Soviet invasion. It found that their experiences differed from the standard models of intellectual migration insomuch as many were readily assimilated into British life and moved successfully into professional careers. Contributing to this success, was the fact that many of the refugees were well qualified. Also most were young. According to Jennifer Platt, people had only about three weeks to get out of Hungary “...it was very difficult for anyone with ties in the country to go. So the group was very skewed to young males.”

Eyes are the windows on the mind. At least that is the verdict of a recent article in the Independent on Sunday (3 November) which looks at research into eye movements and how we see. The article cites the well-known work of Mike Land (Biols) into the relationship between where drivers look and where they steer, and also the work of other members of his team into the eye movements of pianists and table tennis players. According to Mike Land, tracking the eye movements of people carrying out such specific tasks is new and fascinating territory. “In every skilled action, we tend to concentrate on motor activity – steering or playing table tennis. But there’s a whole other strategy we have to learn about which we know nothing. There is an intermediate level of getting information – the interaction between eye and brain – which has a world of its own. That, to me is the most exciting part of this work.”

In a recent report in the Daily Mail (4 November) Erik Millstone (SPRU) takes issue with NutraSweet Kelco, the makers of a widely used artificial sweetener. The company rejects as “bad science”, recent research linking the low calorie sweetener, aspartame, to brain tumours. But, according to Erik Millstone, “the prudent course of action would be at the very least to advise people to reduce or avoid consuming aspartame...If this is allowed to remain on the market there should be a lot more research in independent laboratories.”

An article in the Daily Telegraph (5 November) looks at the development of noise cancellation technology and car manufacturers’ strenuous efforts to find ways of reducing, or even eliminating engine noise. Apparently in their attempts to improve quality they are turning to psychoacoustics, which presents a new challenge for this emerging field of physiological research into hearing and psychology. “It’s a small field” as Chris Plack (BIOLS) explains in the article. “In Britain only Sussex, Cambridge and Nottingham universities have any psychoacousticians. One of the main applications is hearing-aid design, although there have been studies looking at sounds that irritate people.”

RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES
This is a selection of Research Opportunities. More details of these and other opportunities are available from Mylene Powell in the Research Office; ext 3812 (mornings only); email: M.Powell@sussex.ac.uk; http://sussex.ac.uk (For staff, Research Funding).

BRITISH COUNCIL UK/AUSTRIA: Applications invited to develop Austro-British research projects in the fields of the environment, biotechnology, medical technology, information technology and communications and transport engineering. Closing date: 31 May 1997.

DTI INITIATIVE - BIOTECHNOLOGY MEANS BUSINESS: Biotechnology Exploitation Platform Challenge. To anchor the benefits of publicly funded bioscience in the UK. Up to £250,000 award. Closing date: 17 January 1997.

EPSRC/FARADAY PARTNERSHIPS: Call for proposals to improve links between the UK science, engineering and technology base and industry. Closing date: 1 December 1996.

WOLFSON LABORATORY RENOVATION, MODERNISATION AND EQUIPMENT PROGRAMME - PHASE IV 1997-2000: Applications invited to fund the renovation and modernisation of selected applied research laboratories which are to be used for new or different purposes in applied science and technology. Closing date: 15 December 1996.

LISTER INSTITUTE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS: Candidate must be in the bio-medical or related fields and aged under 34 years, with evidence of independent research and an interest in a scientific aspect of preventive medicine. Closing date: 24 January 1996.

NURSERY FOOD STALL
Wednesday 27 November
12 - 2 pm
Ground Floor Arts D
Come and buy your lunch and support the Nursery
Sandwiches pizzas homemade cakes
Tuesday 26 November
1.30pm Psychology in COGS Research in Progress Seminar: "Transient Jacaranda: are we in the mind?" G. Edgar (British Aerospace, Bristol), Room PB2A1.
3pm SEI Seminar: What can Europe learn from the Korean electronics industry? Prof. A. Dawson and Dr. S. Ran Kim, Room A71.
4pm COGS Seminar: Turning technology inside-out: the importance of external representations and physical artefacts in the publishing industry. Yvonne Rogers, Room PB5C11.
4.15pm Biochemistry and Genetics & Development Seminar: The second ATP site and the first turnover of Na⁺-ATPase. Dr. J. Cavieres (Leicester), Biology Lecture Theatre.
5pm Graduate Seminar in Media and Culture: Notions of a British film avant-garde. M. O'Pray (East London), Room D440.
5pm German Research Colloquium: The early years of Nazism and the persecution of the Jew. K.F. Sheridan (London), Room A155.
5pm MA Language, The Arts and Education: The transformation of art into life. V. Denning, EDB Room 302.

Wednesday 27 November
1pm IDS Seminar: Work, wealth and power in rural China: do political connections affect the returns to household labour? S. Cook, IDS Room 221.
4pm Music Research Seminar: From perception to critique: material and musical culture. E. Clarke (Sheffield), Palmer House, Room 120.

Friday 29 November
11.30am Algebra Seminar: The number of points on an affine curve over a finite field. W.J.P. Hirschfeld, Portacabin Science car park.
2pm SPRU Seminar: Strategy, structure and institution in contemporary Europe: empirical findings, theoretical implications. Dr. R. Whittington (New College, Oxford), EDB Room 121.
4pm Astronomy Centre Seminar: Imaging polarimetry of TSOs. J. Hough (Hatfield), Room PB1A1.
4pm Applied Mathematics and Numerical Analysis Seminar: Toepftitz operators and radial basis functions. B. Baxter (Imperial), Room PB1A1.
4.30pm Philosophy Society Meeting: Explanations - lost and found. T. Bowell (Waikato, NZ), Room A155.

Miscellaneous

Lunchtime Recital
1.15pm - Thursday 29 November: The Bridge Quartet: Hayden String Quartet in D Op. 50, no. 6 and Frank Bridge, String Quartet no. 4, Recital Room Palmer House.

Christian Union
7.30pm - Wednesday 27 November: Madonna: icon of postmodernity. Christianity meets postmodernity with speaker Jock McGregor and discussion, Meeting House.

Green Voting
4pm - Tuesday 26 November: Why voting Green matters. ECOaction presents Councillor Pete West. Room 126, Palmer House.

Small Ads
SKI CLUB HOLIDAY: Very alcoholic, loads of snow, excellent skiing and snowboarding, Portes du Soleil, France. 14 to 23 March, £389 including lift pass, half board etc. Interested? Contact Caroline Peet, tel: 601029, cpeet@central, Ski Club p/h in Sports Fed.

HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION: Gweck, nr. Helston, s. Cornwall. Close to River Helford and the beaches on the Lizard peninsula. Twin or double bedroom avail, self-catering basis. £10 per night incl all amenities, shared with owner. Also avail. s/c bungalow to sleep 6. £110-325 per week plus elec. Ring 01825 763413.

Bulletin
The Bulletin appears every Friday of term, with copy deadline the preceding Friday lunchtime. We welcome any suggestions for news, events, letters and small ads. The Bulletin is also now available on the World Wide Web, see University home page. Please contact the Information Office, Sussex House on ext. 8209 or email: bulletin@sussex.ac.uk.

What's on...

Lectures, Seminars, Colloquia

Monday 25 November
11.30pm SCOAP Seminar: Magnetic tapping of atomic Esrhopo: Prof. R.C. Richardson (Cornell), Room PB1A1.
12.30pm Continuing Education Research Forum: A study in culture: The politics of fishing: adults' motivation and higher education. L. West (Kent), Room D310.
2pm Analysis Seminar: Hughes' Principle and integral systems. A.P. Veselov (Loughborough), Room PB1A1.
2pm Palmar Language Group: Time reference in reported speech: getting the pragmatics right. R. Sarkie (Brighton), Room A155.
2pm Culcme Lecture: Righting the family: the ethics and aesthetics of writing familial memoir as creative non-fiction. J. Keefer (Guelph, Canada), Gardner Centre Theatre.
5pm Women's Studies Research-in-Progress Seminar: New laws for old: turns in the writing life. J. Keefer (Guelph), Room D730.
5pm CPES Seminar: Archibald Scott Cooper and Joseph Loschmidt: out of the shadow. Dr. A. Bader, MSLT.

Thursday 28 November
11.30pm Economics Research-in-Progress Seminar: Surplus labour and productivity in Chinese agriculture: evidence from household survey data. S. Cook, Room D340.
12.30pm Postgraduate History and Gender Seminar: The wonderful adventures of Mrs. Seacole in many lands: imperialism, race and identity. A. Ruprecht, Room D730.
2pm Solid State and Materials Seminar: Some aspects of liquid helium - III. Prof. R.C. Richardson (Cornell), Room PB2A2.
3.30pm Gender and Conflict Seminar: Arms to fight, arms to protect: women speak out about conflict. Dr. O. Bennett (PANOS Institute), IDS 221.
4pm Research Seminars: Cultural construction and spatial strategy on the Eastern Cape Frontier, 1806-1840. A. Lester (St. Mary's College), Room D610.
5pm Social and Political Thought Seminar: Respect, the Other and the moral law: Levina's question to Kant. P. Davies, Room D630.
5pm History Work in Progress Seminar: Kaiser Wilhelm II as supreme war lord in the First World War. H. Afflebach (Dusseldorf), Room A155.

ROKPA Blanket Drive
Please bring sleeping bags, warm clothing including hats, scarves, gloves, socks etc. to Saskia Neary, Students Community Action, 1st floor Falmer House, every Tuesday and Wednesday for the rest of this term. ROKPA will take them to Brighton's night refuges for the homeless.

Creative Writing
Anon is an informal group open to anyone from the university or local community. It meets every Wednesday at 5pm in Arts B35 to criticise creative writing supplied by its members. The group encourages all kinds of writing - poetry, fiction, drama and anything in between is welcomed.

Pub Quiz
1.15pm - Thursday 5 December: Superb prizes to be won. Maximum 4 per team. To enter ring ext. 3950 or 8230.

Christmas Challenge
6pm - Wednesday 11 December: Teams required from as many areas of the university as possible to take part in a fun night of challenges for the body, mind and spirit. Entry forms available at the Sportcentre reception. Closing date 29 November. Help and prizes needed.

Please note: All seminars take place in the Library unless otherwise stated.